(a) whether the Ministry of Finance has received any proposal from the Ministry of Human Resource Development regarding enhancement in scholarship for meritorious students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) A proposal for enhancement of scholarship under National Merit Scholarship Scheme during the 10th Five Year Plan is under consideration between Finance Ministry and Ministry of Human Resource Development. A final decision will be taken after some pending issues are resolved.

ADB Aid to Uttar Pradesh

†938. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects being executed in Uttar Pradesh with the help of Asian Development Bank;

(b) the details of such projects and the investment made therein; and

(c) the current position of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) There is no ongoing ADB assisted project in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tax-GDP ratio

939. SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tax-GDP ratio during the last three years has continuously come down; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Tax-GDP ratios in respect of the Central Government during the last three years are as under:

2000-01	8.96
2001-02	8.15
2002-03 (Provisional)	8.81

Outsourcing of income tax processing assignments

940. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assured the public to process all income tax and corporate tax returns within four months and make refunds accordingly in all IT. Circles;

(b) if so, the number of returns processed and refunds made during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that where it is not possible to make refunds within 4 months of filling the returns, Government propose to outsource the processing assignment; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of returns processed and refunds made during the last three years are given in the Statement (See below).

(c) and (d) the Chief Commissioners/Commissioners of Income Tax have been authorised to outsource the work of data entry of returns wherever it is not possible to manage the work of data entry of returns with the departmental manpower.